

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no. A	Form no. 603
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n Lexington
ress 4 Grant Street
e Boston Edison Company Building
sent use Boston Edison Co.
offices
sent owner
cription:
e 1913
Source Kelley, p. 117
e Classical Revival

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

Architect
Exterior wall fabric stuccoed concrete
Outbuildings (describe) fenced in transformers
Other features rectangular smooth surface
quoins trim the corners-windows and door
similarly treated in arch pattern
Altered _____ Date _____
Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage _____
Approximate distance of building from street _____

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by E.W.Reinhardt
Organization Lex.Hist.Com.
Date 3/27/76

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This is the site of several Muzzey family houses. Presumably, the first Muzzey in Lexington (1640s?) built a house in this area, alongside Vine Brook. The brook was dammed and Muzzey operated a sawmill here.

The present Muzzey house at 42 Forest Street (eighteenth century) stood here before being moved to Waltham Street in 1841 to make room for the Muzzey "Mansion House." In turn, the mansion house was cut in half in 1913 and moved to Glen Road South (Muzzey owned land), where it remains today (#14).

S. Lawrence Whipple, 1984

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
4 GRANT STREET

Area(s) Form No.

A

603

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Although Lexington had electricity in 1893, it was not until 1914 that this station began supplying the power. The Edison Illuminating Company provided the following description of their new building for the *Lexington Minute-man* of November 1, 1913:

This new station is located at 401 Massachusetts avenue, corner of Grant street, with the entrance on Grant street. It is what is called Station No. 34 by the Boston Edison Company. The building is about 67 ½ feet front by 111 ½ feet deep and sets 40 feet or more back from Massachusetts avenue. Special care has been taken by the company to preserve the large trees on the street front, and the intervening grounds between the street and the building will be made attractive by expert landscape gardeners. The basement walls are of concrete, above which is brick, with steel frames, concrete floors, and roof, with metal sash and trimmings throughout. It is fire-proof of the very highest class of construction. The general contractors of this building are Messrs. Whidden & Company of Boston. A small temporary station used during the work on the new station will disappear as soon as the larger station is entirely available. From this station the company will serve its customers throughout Lexington, and connecting into the station will be trunk lines leading to the Waltham and Woburn stations, which will make for increased efficiency and continuity of service. The apparatus, although of high capacity and efficiency, will be practically noiseless in operation. There is of course no smoke or dust or dirt in connection with the operation of such a station, which is only used for transforming high tension current down to commercial pressure.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Kelley, Beverley Allison. *Lexington: A Century of Photographs*. Lexington: Lexington Historical Society, 1980, p. 117.
Lexington Minute-man, Nov. 1, 1913.

Supplement prepared by:
Lisa Mausolf
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